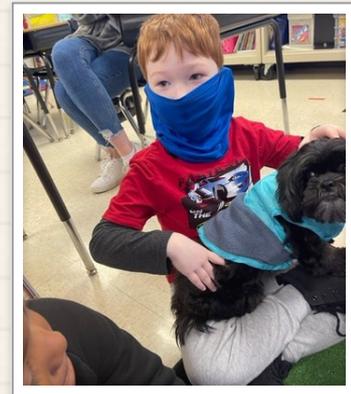


March

WESTWOOD ELEMENTARY'S NEWSLETTER



IMPORTANT DATES

Important Dates:

- March 4th: Elementary Plan Day (NO SCHOOL)
- March 8th, 10th and 11th: Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 14th-18th: Spring Break (NO SCHOOL)

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

Parent/Teacher Conferences

We look forward to seeing you all for Parent-Teacher Conferences this month. They take place on the following dates:

- **Tuesday, March 8th (3:30-7:45)**
- **Thursday, March 10th (3:30-7:45)**
- **Friday, March 11th (8:00-12:00)**

Our staff has worked very hard to prepare for your time together and we encourage you to make every effort to attend. Typically, we have about 94% of our families attend. However, last fall we reached 97%. That is amazing and a true testament of the ongoing support we receive from our Westwood families. Let's work together as a school community to improve our

percentage to 100% this round. Please be looking for information from your child's teacher that provides specific times for your child's conference.

During conferences, our specials teachers will be available to visit with you if you have any questions about Music, PE, STEM, Counseling, or the library. Our Special Education and ELL staff will be stopping in during their student's conferences, but if they miss you, please stop by the office and we can locate them for you.

Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration

We will honor and celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss during the week of **February 28th-March 3rd**. Our student council has planned a fun week for the students and staff. Please plan for the following attire:

Monday: The Cat in the Hat (Wear your favorite hat)

Tuesday: Green Eggs and Ham (Wear green)

Wednesday: Happy Birthday! (Dress wacky)

Thursday: I am NOT Going to Get up Today! (Wear your Pajamas)

Friday: Elementary Plan Day (NO SCHOOL)

Class Pictures

Class Pictures will take place on Tuesday, March 22nd. We would love to have all our students in attendance so they can remember their teacher and classmates for years to come. Order forms will be sent home on March 9th or 10th if you are interested in purchasing.

I look forward to seeing everyone during parent-teacher conferences. Please stop by my office and see me! As a reminder, spring break will take during the week of March 14th-18th. I hope the weather cooperates and that everyone can soak in some much-needed sunshine. I am truly thankful for this wonderful community and the families that support our students. Our teachers and staff appreciate your commitment to education.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dressman, Westwood Principal

COUNSELOR CORNER

Hello Wildcat Family!

In February to celebrate Black History Month the 1st graders completed an activity discussing the book 'Let the Children March' by Monica Clark-Robinson during Ms. Christion's counseling class. During this activity they discussed the purpose of the children marching for equality and justice. The students also participated in making their own signs and demonstrated a peaceful march around our school to better understand what the children during that time had to endure for their fight for freedom.

In February during counseling, we discussed the character education word: **RESPONSIBILITY**. We discussed being responsible with our things, our choices, and even our learning. I am hopeful that these discussions will help students take ownership in their learning. Please have discussions with your children about their responsibilities at home, school, and community. It's a great time to remind them even though parents and teachers HELP and are always there for them, ultimately, they are responsible for their choices and actions. Together we can help students be more responsible in all the choices they make.

****CHARACTER EDUCATION**

MARCH WORD OF THE MONTH

Trustworthiness

BE HONEST. . . Don't lie, cheat, or steal.

BE RELIABLE. . . Keep your promises and follow through on your commitments.

HAVE THE COURAGE. . . to do what is right, even when it seems difficult.

BE A GOOD FRIEND. . . and don't betray a trust.

Eboniechristion@usd475.org



PRE-K

In our PreK classroom we have begun working on Unit 7: Animals. As this title suggests, in this unit we will be focusing on animals that live on a farm, how animals grow and change, how we care for pets, how pets change and grow, animals that live in the wild, where animals live around the world, and how animals are alike and different.

You can extend learning at home by checking out our classroom Schoology page under materials in a folder labeled Unit 7. There are a lot of fun learning activities listed to have fun learning at home with your student.

In math, students will begin identifying measurable attributes of objects in terms of length, weight, and capacity. We will be learning the letters Xx, Vv, Jj and Qq during the upcoming

KINDERGARTEN

Reading:

This month our classes will continue to read a variety of stories. We will be focusing on the transportation used to take people from place to place, our country's national symbols, monuments, and national parks. Then we will move in to learning all about opposites, as well as learning about the sky during the day vs at night.

We are also continuing to learn high frequency words. We have learned so many, check the handout that came home last quarter to see what words we have learned so far! This month we will be focusing on learning the words; me, here, this, and what.

We also focus on story elements, like character, setting, and plot. We are testing our comprehension by identifying the main idea of the text as well as finding key details in the book, as well as being able to state the problem and the solution in the story. Have your child choose a favorite story and then read it together. Ask your child questions about the main characters, setting, and plot. Invite your child to draw pictures about the characters, setting, and plot.

Your student should know all the letters by the Spring Break! This means we are more ready than ever to write stories! Your student should be able to write an opinion piece, an informational piece, as well as a narrative. We have been working hard in writing, making sure we can get two sentences down about our topic. We will continue to learn diagraphs (sh, ch, th, etc.) and blends. We learned about L-Blends, now we will focus on R-Blends (*br, cr, dr, gr, tr*). There's still so much to learn in kindergarten!

Reading Tip: Write high frequency words (*here, me, etc.*) and ask your child to write each word. Think of sentences that use each word, then read the sentences together.

Math:

We are wrapping up Module 4, where we focused on addition and subtraction, as well as number sentences. We will move on to Module 5 in March. Module 5 is all about teen numbers! Teen numbers can be really tricky to learn, so help your student recognize that the number is 1 group of 10, and some more 1's. Whenever you see a teen number, ask them to identify it to get lots of practice!

Math Tip:

Encourage your student to write their teen numbers and then recite them. Remind them that all teen numbers start with a 1, and that 1 is stands for 1 group of 10!

Ms. Sowell and Mrs. Harmison

1ST GRADE

First graders have been extremely busy this month! According to Ms. Christion, our school counselor, to celebrate Black History Month the 1st graders completed an activity discussing the book 'Let the Children March' by Monica Clark-Robinson during Ms. Christion's counseling class. Throughout this activity, the class discussed the purpose of the children marching for equality and justice. The students also participated in making their own signs and demonstrated a peaceful march around our school to better understand what the children during that time had to endure for their fight for freedom.

We have been learning about animals in reading. During our Unit 4 Week 5 instruction, our Essential Question was 'How do People Work with Animals'? Students learned what it takes to be a service animal in our Reading and Writing Companion books and what they are used for. After learning about Guide dogs, we had a pet visitor come to our classrooms! Her name is Poppy, she is a four-year-old shitzu, she came to visit our first graders on February 23rd. She is a certified service animal. The boys and girls asked good questions and learned a lot about how people work with animals and how animals help people.

We are continually growing in our knowledge about place value and tens and ones! Celebrating the 100th Day of school was fun and educationally engaging! The boys and girls dressed as if they were 100 years old. The students competed in a 100 Day Challenge event which included some brain power and workouts! Some of the activities were to complete a dot-to-dot from 1-100. Read 100 words in a poem. Walk 100 steps, bounce a ball 100 times, flip a mini cone; if it landed straight up, they got 10 points, they continued this activity until they earned 100 points! They also got to munch on 10 groups of 10 snack items. We are still munching on them to this date!

Mrs. Williams prepared the First and Second grade for a pajama party Music Program! It was evident that the children worked hard in music class and many students had individual speaking parts and a solo to practice. The program was an immense success, and all the teachers and staff are so proud of them!

Mrs. Bascue and Mrs. Biram

2ND GRADE

Our second grade classes have been busy learning about and creating math arrays. We are understanding how rows and columns help us organize groups and connect to learning multiplication. Our displays can be seen in the hallway outside of our classrooms.

Reader's Theater is a popular way to practice fluency skills and expression in a format almost like a play. The students enjoy changing their voices to fit the characters they portray. We just finished "A Whale of a Story".

Writing has been a key focus this quarter and our volcano stories were the highlight. We learned a lot about them before creating a fictional adventure story centered around a personal volcano experience.

Finally, we recently harvested our onions and carrots that have been growing in the Plant Hub for several months. Hope you saw the pictures Mrs. Dressman posted on our Westwood Facebook page. It was a lot of fun discussing why the carrots grew the way they did and my, the onions smelled so good! We can't wait to get some new plants going for the big sale on April 30th for our community.

Mrs. Ascher and Ms. Witt

3RD GRADE

3rd Grade Wildcat Families,

It is hard to believe we just finished our third quarter of the school year. In Reading we've been hard at work learning about how others inspire us, and how we can use what we know to help others. During Math we just finished up area and started working on fractions. Students have been working extra hard and making growth every day!

In Science we recently dissected Owl pellets and learned about the skeletal structure of rodents. It took some students awhile to dive in, but after that they did their curiosity went through the roof. If you have a second, ask your student about supply and demand. Their knowledge of Economics has boomed during Social Studies this past month. Overall, it has been a successful month for learning and we can't wait to see what great things lie ahead.

Mr. McCallister and Ms. Staley

4TH GRADE

As our year moves on we head into such an exciting time in 4th grade. This month in math kids will be continuing their learning of fractions. We will also be exposing them to decimals and geometry as we get closer to state testing time and final preparations. We will continue to bring a focus on story problem with the emphasis of not reading the problem all at once, but instead stopping and illustrating or solving as they read it. Extra practice on review and preview lessons will continue during our WIN time as well. Please help your young people memorize their multiplication facts at home (2-12).

In reading we are working hard in whole groups and small groups with both expository and narrative text in our wonders program. We are using data driven instruction to best hone in our teaching efforts to better serve our young people. We do ask our kids are applying their learnings to 20 minutes of reading each night Monday through Thursday. Plus practice eyeball pushups which is picking out two or three sentences, and at first reading slow annunciating each word, then faster and faster reading without mumbling.

In science we will be finishing up with energy, electrical, potential, and kinetic. We will be experimenting with magnets and also will extend stem lessons and be looking into astronomy lessons. Studying sound and sound waves will be coming up as well.

We are also excited to continue to build our classroom families even stronger as our young people are maturing and further making strong adjustments into their professional setting on a daily basis. To our parents, thank you for your support and all you do for your kids!!!

Mr. Hall and Ms. Dill

5TH GRADE

We are finishing strong as we start the final quarter in 5th grade! In math, we are learning to volume and area. Students are also having a good time learning to draw three dimensional shapes.

We are preparing and reviewing for state testing in language arts, math, and science. We are studying drama, poetry, and expository texts. Students are getting better at reading through questioning, expanding vocabulary, determining theme, and analyzing point of view. In writing, we are continuing to work on informational research writing and poetry. We are diving living systems with hands on experiments in science.

Lastly, in social studies we are discussing the events that led to the Revolutionary War, the actual events, and the aftermath. It is a fun unit! We love seeing your students everyday!

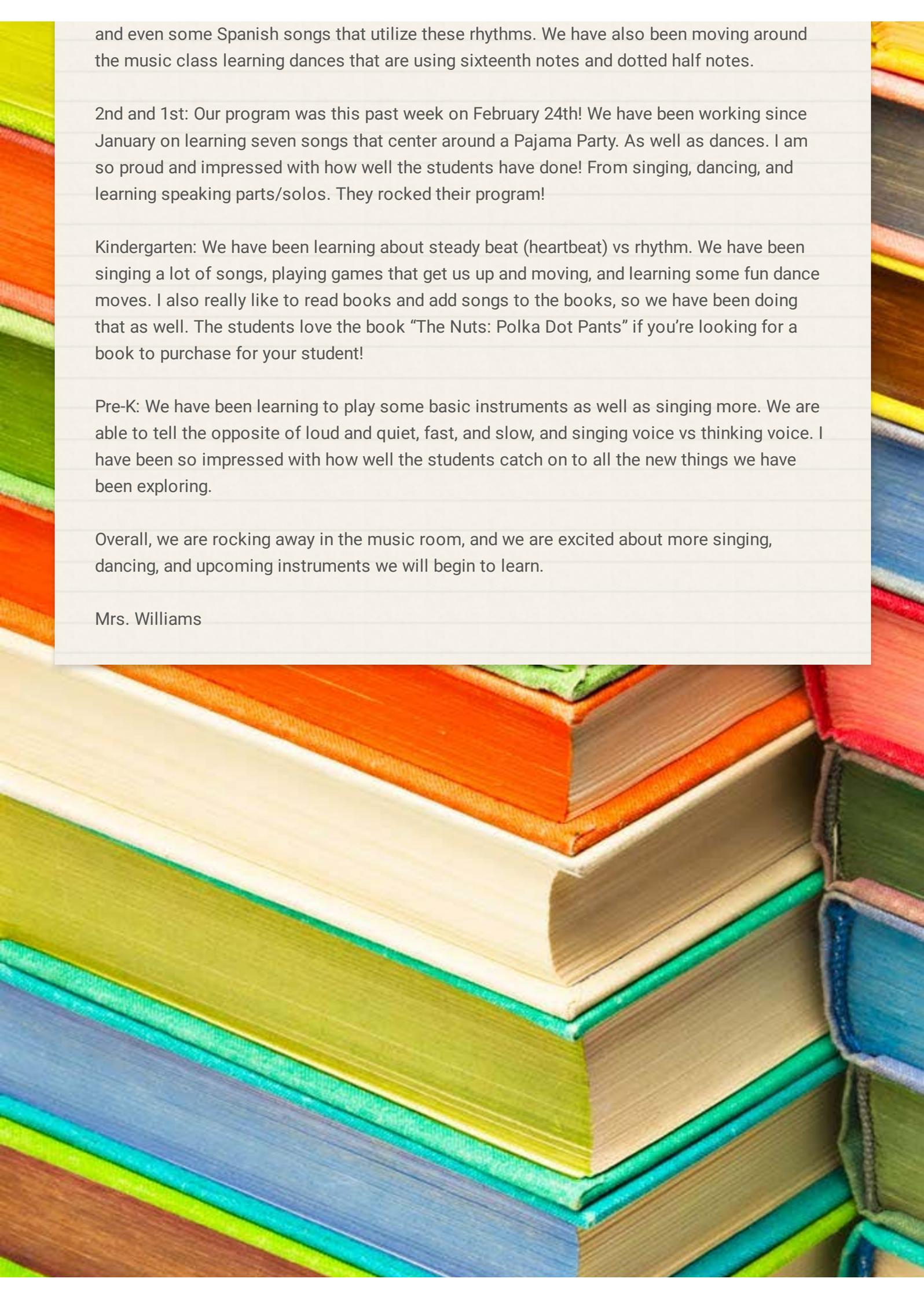
Mrs. Mackay, Ms. Riley, and Mrs. Ramos

MUSIC

We have been singing and dancing in the music classroom for the past few months! We have been really exploring our singing voices and what it means to sing with support and good vowels. Here are some specific updates for each grade:

5th and 4th: We are currently starting prep work for our program in April! We have been working on singing folk songs from Mexico. It has been so fun to help these students explore and learn Spanish as well as educate them on the themes of each song. I have been so impressed with how well the students are picking up the songs. April 19th is our program, mark your calendars!

3rd: We have been working on labeling some new rhythms such as sixteenth notes and dotted half notes. In preparation for these new rhythms, we have been learning lots of different songs



and even some Spanish songs that utilize these rhythms. We have also been moving around the music class learning dances that are using sixteenth notes and dotted half notes.

2nd and 1st: Our program was this past week on February 24th! We have been working since January on learning seven songs that center around a Pajama Party. As well as dances. I am so proud and impressed with how well the students have done! From singing, dancing, and learning speaking parts/solos. They rocked their program!

Kindergarten: We have been learning about steady beat (heartbeat) vs rhythm. We have been singing a lot of songs, playing games that get us up and moving, and learning some fun dance moves. I also really like to read books and add songs to the books, so we have been doing that as well. The students love the book "The Nuts: Polka Dot Pants" if you're looking for a book to purchase for your student!

Pre-K: We have been learning to play some basic instruments as well as singing more. We are able to tell the opposite of loud and quiet, fast, and slow, and singing voice vs thinking voice. I have been so impressed with how well the students catch on to all the new things we have been exploring.

Overall, we are rocking away in the music room, and we are excited about more singing, dancing, and upcoming instruments we will begin to learn.

Mrs. Williams